

(Washington, DC)— Today U.S. Senator Herb Kohl and 4th District Congresswoman Gwen Moore announced the award of a \$325,000 grant to expand the Ways to Work (WtW) loan program into Waukesha County.

WtW has partnered with La Casa de Esperanza, Inc. to issue small direct loans to low-income families to be used for the purchase, repair, and maintenance of automobiles to be used primarily for transportation to work, school, and child care facilities. All program participants that receive a WtW loan are required to register with the local Rideshare program in order to promote the benefits of carpooling.

“Steady employment is an integral part of family and community stability, and transportation to work is often one of the hardest obstacles to overcome - especially in the suburbs. The Ways to Work loan program offers a forward-thinking option for people who are working hard to stay on their feet, and I’m pleased that we were able to expand its reach,” Kohl said.

“Use of a car in today’s job market is no longer a luxury, but a necessity,” Moore said. “With a large city workforce eager for work and many employers in the suburbs seeking people to fill positions, this Ways to Work grant will open up additional possibilities for employment for my constituents that are currently unreachable by public transportation.”

Sen. Kohl and Congresswoman Moore were successful in securing funding for the Ways to Work program in the FY 05 Transportation Appropriation bill. The grant was awarded through the U.S. Department of Transportation.

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